

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 23, 27-30, 37, 58, 65, 71, 137-148, 159-173, 177, and 180.

In response to the present Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 23. Claims 23, 25, and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 2-22, 24, and 27-30 have been amended for clarity and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejected claims 31, 32, and 36 have been amended for clarity and are now either directly or indirectly dependent on amended claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable in view of the amendments to claim 1. Claims 33-35 have been cancelled.

Independent claim 39 has been amended to include the limitation recited in claim 58 and 65. Dependent claims 55, 58, 64, and 65 have been cancelled. The intervening dependent claims 40-54, 56, 57, 59-63, and 66-74 (as dependent on amended base claim 39) have been amended to place them in condition for issuance are now believed to be allowable in view of the amendments to base claim 39.

Independent claim 133 has been amended to include the limitation of allowed claim 137. In view thereof, Applicant has cancelled claim 137. Claims 147, 186, and 187 have also been cancelled. Claims 134-136, 138-146, and 148-181 (as dependent either directly or indirectly on amended base claim 133) have been amended to place them in condition for issuance.

New claims 207-212 have been added to more particularly and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention and to render related pending dependent claims in conformity with the requirements of the Statute.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 43, 49, 51, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's careful reading of the language of these rejected claims for compliance with Section 112 of the Statute. In response thereto, Applicant has amended claims 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 43, 49, 51, and 53 accordingly and now believes that these claims, as amended, are definite and thus sufficiently particular and distinct to satisfy the requirements of the Statute under Section 112 thereof.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

Date:

Aug 14, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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